

Army National Guard (ARNG) Aviation Training Sites (AATS)

What is it?

AATS are the ARNG AATS at the following locations:

- Western AATS (WAATS) at Marana, Ariz.;
- Eastern AATS (EAATS) at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.
- Fixed Wing AATS (FWAATS) at Bridgeport, W.V.;
- High Altitude AATS (HAATS) at Eagle, Colo.;
- On-line AATS (OAATS) at Fort Rucker, Ala.

What has Army Aviation done?

The ARNG established these sites in full coordination with (then) the U.S. Army Aviation Center (USAAVNC) to meet training requirements that were either unique to the ARNG or that the existing institutional training base could not meet. The AATS focus is to both complement and supplement U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence training requirements. EAATS, WAATS and FWAATS are Total Army School System (TASS)certified training institutions. The formal method by which the Active Component and ARNG synchronize individual institutional training requirements (between USAACE and the AATS) is the Structure and Manning Decision Review (SMDR) process. An aviation-only pre-SMDR conference is conducted, during which training quotas are established and refined to meet each component's and command's needs. The training requirements are finalized during the formal SMDR.

- The WAATS focuses on attack and scout missions, specifically training crewmembers in the OH-58A/C, AH-64A, and AH-64D, as well as enlisted maintainers and flight operations personnel.
- The EAATS focuses on utility and cargo missions, specifically conducting UH-60, UH-72, and CH-47 qualifications for pilots, instructor pilots, and maintenance test pilots, as well as enlisted maintainers and crewmembers.
- The FWAATS conducts individual aircrew member qualification, specifically conducting C-12, C-23, and C-26 qualifications for pilots and instructor pilots, as well as individual enlisted crewmember training. FWAATS conducts a fixed-wing qualification course (that now utilizes a C-12 full motion Level "C" simulator) for pilots that have acquired civilian skills as a baseline.
- The HAATS trains Army pilots on mountain flying and power-management flight techniques that help improve safety margins in the high/hot/heavy environments. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) deployers have found it particularly useful. HAATS trained more than 400 students in FY09, the majority of which were OEF-bound and brought their own helicopters from home station (BYOH). Four UH-60s and five OH-58A/Cs are assigned to HAATS.
- The On-Line AATS is an emerging concept that will provide centralized, Web-based distance learning for aviation subjects. Courses include general aviation knowledge (e.g. Airspace and High Intensity Radio Transmission Area (HIRTA), Aviation Physiology) and airframe-specific tests and study material (e.g. UH-60 hydraulics, OH-58D -10 exam)).

What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?

- WAATS. Whereas OH-58A/C and AH-64A training will atrophy over the next five years, AH-64D training will increase as the ARNG attack fleet modernizes. Currently, WAATS has 14 AH-64A and 13 OH-58A/C aircraft on-hand, eight AH-64Ds on-loan from the collocated 1st Battalion, 285th Regimentt (Arizona ARNG), as well as three AH-64Ds on-loan from USAACE. WAATS is developing a Tactical

Unmanned Aircraft System (TUAS) training capability in anticipation of losing its OH-58 training mission. The major training requirements for FY10 are:

- 58 AH-64A Aircraft Qualification Course (AQC) / Instructor Pilot Course (IPC) / Maintenance Test Pilot Course (MTPC);
- 90 AH-64D AQC / Supplemental Aircraft Qualification Course (SAQC) / Supplemental Instructor Pilot Course (SIPC); (95 percent of the Total Army Requirement); and
- 46 OH-58A/C AQC / IPC / MTPC.
- EAATS. As the Army fields the UH-60M and CH-47F, EAATS will plan to expand its mission set to include these modernized airframes. EAATS relies heavily on the 28th Combat Aviation Brigade (PA ARNG) for maintenance support, and is significantly affected by their current deployment. Eleven UH-60s, three CH-47Ds, and six UH-72s are assigned to the EAATS. The major training requirements for FY10 are:
 - 86 UH-60 AQC / IPC / MTPC;
 - 16 CH-47 AQC / IPC; and
 - 72 UH-72 AQC / IPC.
- FWAATS. In coordination with the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the Operational Support Airlift Agency (OSAA), FWAATS is helping to develop a training package to address the training requirements for Task Force Observe, Detect, Identify and Neutralize (ODIN). TF ODIN was created as part of a number of initiatives to help defeat the threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), increase the survivability of U.S. Army units engaged in that mission, improve the usage of resources therein and also to give more access to ISR assets, primarily UASs, to lower echelon commanders in the field. The major training requirements for FY10 are:
 - 26 C-12 Fixed-Wing Qualification/ Instrument Flight Examiner (IFE);
 - 108 C-23 AQC / IPC / Flight Engineer Instructor and Qualification; and
 - 14 C-26 Fixed Wing Qualification (FWQ) / IPC / IFE.
- HAATS. In coordination with USAACE, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), and NGB, HAATS is helping to develop an exportable training package to address the increased requirements supporting OEF. The major training requirements for FY10 are:
 - 228 UH-60 Power Management / Mountain Flying Qualification;
 - 152 CH-47 Power Management / Mountain Flying Qualification; and
 - 76 OH-58A/C Power Management / Mountain Flying Qualification.

Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?

For the past 20 years, the Army National Guard Aviation Training Sites have been instrumental in providing aviation training. These training sites provide a vital surge-capability for Army Aviation. Additionally, more than 40 percent of the Army's Aviation Branch resides in the Army National Guard; a force structure that is forward deployed and geographically dispersed across all the states and territories. Now, more than ever before, Guard aviation is a relevant, responsive and critical member of the Army Aviation force that continues to transform and modernize while providing domestic and overseas contingency support to our Nation.

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